

§ 1. (Amended) A method for managing channels within an audio conferencing system comprising:

- receiving a call on a channel, the call associated with a conference;
- identifying a first resource having a predetermined capacity to receive additional conferences, the first resource having a plurality of channels and operating under control of a processor to handle audio conferences;
- mapping the channel to one of the plurality of channels of the first resource if the capacity of the first resource is sufficient to add the channel;
- moving at least one of the plurality of channels of the first resource associated with a second conference to at least one other resource if the capacity of the first resource is not sufficient to add the channel;
- for respective conferences, determining a predetermined number of highest talk level channels associated with the respective conference based on a comparison of channels of the resources having channels associated with the respective conference, the predetermined number independent of a total number of resources having channels associated with the respective conference; and
- summing the predetermined number of highest talk level channels as output for the respective conference.

§ 2. 10. (Amended) A method for managing conferences within an audio conferencing system, the method comprising:

- identifying a first resource with a predetermined capacity to receive additional conferences, the first resource having a plurality of channels and operating under control of a processor to handle audio conferences;
- identifying a second resource with a predetermined capacity to receive additional conferences, the second resource having a plurality of channels and operating under control of a processor to handle audio conferences, the capacity of the second resource being less than the capacity of the first resource, and the second resource including a conference;

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moving the conference on the second resource to the first resource if the first resource has a capacity to include the conference, and attempting to identify a third resource if the first resource does not have the capacity to include the conference;

for respective conferences, determining a predetermined number of highest talk level channels associated with the respective conference based on a comparison of channels of the resources having channels associated with the respective conference, the predetermined number independent of a total number of resources having channels associated with the respective conference; and

summing the predetermined number of highest talk level channels as output for the respective conference.

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19. (Twice Amended) A method for managing audio conferencing resources comprising:

detecting a loss of a first physical resource, the first physical resource being a resource for conducting at least one audio conference;

identifying one or more audio conferences of the at least one audio conference associated with the first physical resource;

identifying a second physical resource, the second physical resource being a resource for conducting at least one audio conference, and the second physical resource having a capacity for the one or more conferences;

allocating the one or more conferences to the second physical resource;

for respective conferences, determining a predetermined number of highest talk level channels associated with the respective conference based on a comparison of channels of the physical resources having channels associated with the respective conference, the predetermined number independent of a total number of physical resources having channels associated with the respective conference; and

summing the predetermined number of highest talk level channels as output for the respective conference.

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23. (Twice Amended) The method of claim 1, comprising:  
detecting a loss of one of the at least one other resource;